

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-1

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Senate Panel Releases 4 Memos Linked to Dispute Over Adelman

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WASHINGTON, March 23 — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee made public four documents today that are said by several senators to show that Kenneth L. Adelman, President Reagan's nominee to head the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, misled the committee in testimony.

After hearing a plea behind closed doors from Secretary of State George P. Shultz to keep the unclassified

Texts of documents, page A21.

papers private, the committee voted 11 to 6 to make them public. But in a 12-to-5 vote it decided against calling Mr. Adelman back to testify and reconcile the documents with his earlier testimony.

Senators opposed to the Adelman nomination contended that dissemination of the documents would weaken Mr. Adelman's chances of confirmation by the full Senate. But his supporters, even though they had fought to keep the documents secret, said his case would not be hurt.

The Foreign Relations Committee voted 9 to 8 last month to recommend against confirmation, but President Reagan has said he wanted to fight for approval of Mr. Adelman.

After today's executive session, which participants described as "acrimonious," both Republican and Democratic critics of the nomination urged the President to withdraw Mr. Adelman's name. But the White House said Mr. Reagan was still "100 percent" behind the nomination.

At issue was Mr. Adelman's testimony about possible personnel changes at the agency.

One of the documents was a memorandum dated Jan. 17 from Mr. Adelman informing Kenneth W. Dam, Deputy Secretary of State, that Mr. Adelman had asked Robin West, an Assistant Secretary of the Interior and a close friend of the nominee, "to investigate the A.C.D.A. personnel situation" but to "decide nothing, say nothing one way or the other, and make no bureaucratic waves whatsoever."

A second document, a typed memorandum from Mr. Adelman to Mr. West on Jan. 15, asserted that the first appointments at the arms control agency would be "critical" and "should give the signal that we will have people far more qualified than the job demands." It named four people whom it said Mr. West should solicit for personnel suggestions and pointed up the agency's personnel needs outlined by Edward L. Rowny, the chief strategic arms negotiator.

Names Written on Memorandum

A third document is a memorandum that Mr. Adelman said Mr. Rowny had handed him on Jan. 14, criticizing more than a dozen officials. On it, Mr. Adelman wrote four other names, three of them subsequently recommended to him in a phone call from Mr. Rowny.

The fourth document is Mr. Adelman's handwritten covering note on the Rowny memorandum, addressed to Mr. West. It says: "Robin, Eyes Only! Ed Rowny's very confidential real views on people. Thanks! Ken."

"Eyes Only" is a government term used to say that a message is to be read only by the recipient and no one else.

"It is very, very plain that Mr. Adelman misled the committee," Senator Cranston told reporters after this morning's session. "It is quite plain there was consideration of personnel purging and plainly Mr. Adelman, despite his denial, was involved."

"The issue is not whether what he did was right but why he misled the committee?" Senator Tsongas said. Other senators were quoted as having questioned Mr. Adelman's credibility during today's meeting.

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Situation 'Not Addressed at All'

Mr. Adelman replied that he had "not addressed the personnel situation 'at all'" because he "thought it was premature before the Senate voted on this matter."

It was the memorandum that Ambassador Rowny handed to Mr. Adelman that originally stirred up controversy within the committee because of Mr. Rowny's critical comments about four of the five ranking members of his own negotiating team. Three of them, he said, wanted "progress at any cost," a fourth he described as "solid but nit-picker," and the fifth was "OTL"—evidently meaning "out to lunch"—and "abrasive; doesn't want to learn."

That memorandum also contained a critique of 15 other officials and their prospects for remaining or leaving the agency. In some cases, the Rowny memorandum recommended that they be dismissed or sent "back to State" but in others it commented that the officials were "overdue for promotion."

Although Mr. Adelman said he had "never studied" or "taken any action whatsoever" on the Rowny memorandum, his own messages to Mr. West reflected reactions to Mr. Rowny's recommendations.

As a result of what some senators considered Ambassador Rowny's indiscretion, especially in identifying a Central Intelligence Agency operative in an unclassified memorandum, several Senators have called for his resignation, but both the White House and Secretary Shultz have firmly backed him.

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